

BALLINTEER PARISH NEWSLETTER



Blessings of
Christmas
Peace-Hope-
Joy - Love

CHRISTMAS 2015

www.ballinteer.dublindiocese.ie

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Preparing for Christmas Carol Concert

Ballinteer: Sunday 13th Dec. at 3.00pm

Penitential Rite

Marley Grange: Monday 14th Dec. at 8.00pm

Ballinteer: Tuesday 22nd Dec. at 7.30pm

Dundrum: Thursday 24th Dec. at 12 noon.

Confessions in Ballinteer

Thursday 24th December: 3.00pm - 4.00pm

Christmas Timetable In Ballinteer

Sunday 13th December 3.00-4.00pm - Carol Service

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve): 9.30am

6.00pm First Mass of Christmas:

(Organist and Soloist)

9.00pm Solemn Mass of Christmas (Gospel Choir)

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day):

Masses:

9.30am (Irish/As Gaeilge)

11.00am (Our Lady's School Choir)

12.30pm (Ballinteer Male Voice Choir)

(No evening Mass).

Saturday 26th December: 9.30am. **No Vigil Mass**

(Vigil Mass at 6.30pm in Meadowbrook)

Sunday 27th December - Monday 4th January 2016

Masses as normal

Feast of the Epiphany:

Tues. 5th Jan. Mass at 9.30am and Vigil Mass 7.30pm

Wednesday 6th January - Mass at 9.30am only.

THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST BALLINTEER

Historic photos, maps and interviews feature in this captivating hour-long DVD which charts the early days of Ballinteer, as it evolved from a rural farmland with winding country roads to the busy, friendly suburb it is today.

We meet people from many of the community organisations active in our parish both past and present, including the GAA, our Schools, the Blue House, the Cells and the Faith & Light groups; we remember pilgrimages to Lourdes, and we visit a remote parish in Nigeria which has twinned with St John's.

Finally, we get a fascinating tour of the beautiful - and hidden - features of the church itself, enhanced with performances by the many talented choirs, musicians and singers who imbue our celebrations in St John's with joy.

This DVD looks at how the entire community is bonded under the all-encompassing name of "parish".

Price: €10 from Church Shop or Parish Office.

Church Shop

The Church Shop will be open after the 9.30am Mass every morning from now until Christmas, for **Advent Calendars, Christmas cards, candles, cribs, religious diaries and Church Art calendars for 2016.**

Confirmation + First Holy Communion + Easter + Birthday + Get Well + Thank You + Sympathy + Wedding Cards.

Also Catholic newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, Children's books and Bibles.

Christmas Greetings

Since arriving in the parish in September, I've been finding my way around, getting to know new names and addresses. Coming from Kilquade/Greystones parishes where I spent eleven years, the differences are huge. My former parishes were made up of urban and rural housing, many roads, enormous numbers for the sacraments each year.

The Archbishop appointed me as Moderator of Ballinteer/Dundrum/Meadowbrook with a view to enabling the parishes to work together, while preparing for the future. Any unnecessary duplications of Mass times and other services will have to be examined in the near future.

Recent statistics inform us that the average Mass Attendance (weekends) in Ballinteer is 1,550, Dundrum 1,110, Meadowbrook 580. What has caught my attention since arriving is the large number of parishioners involved in the parish, as well as in Dundrum and Meadowbrook. There is a very healthy engagement of parishioners in all aspects of parish life, from the Parish Council, to the Finance Committee and numerous groups.

It is my first time to work with a Deacon, and I'm delighted to have Noel as a colleague for our Liturgies.

In this great season of Christmas, we celebrate the coming of Jesus to our world. We gain an understanding of Jesus through our prayer, our Mass and listening to God's word. In committing ourselves to the way of Jesus we are enabled to go forward and live the Christian life.

Our parish welcomes everyone to our Christmas Liturgies including the Carol Service and Penitential Services.

A big welcome to those who may not come to church weekly and also a big **Céad Mile Fáilte** to family members who travel from all over the world to be with their families at this joyous time. Also to parishioners living abroad, unable to come home for Christmas, we send a very special greeting.

A happy Christmas to all.

Fr. Liam Belton

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul – Ballinteer Conference

The basic unit of the Society is the Conference and most parishes in Ireland have one. The members of St. John the Evangelist Parish Conference carry out the Society's mandate mainly by way of home visitation. There in the homes of those in need they offer friendship and support, listening sympathetically and avoiding judgmental and patronizing attitudes. The manner of giving ensures that people do not feel unworthy because they need help.

This Conference would not be in a position to respond to those in need in this Parish without the support of our clergy and the community. The monthly collection, normally after all Masses on the second Sunday, is a reliable source of revenue. Your response to the annual Christmas Appeal, and frequent individual donations, continue to astound.

If you are in need, or know of others in need, please contact the Conference at: **086 358 5314**. Confidentiality is always respected and maintained.

CROSSCARE FOOD BANK APPEAL

Non-perishable food items can be left in the church from now until 17th Dec. 2015

Extending the Hand of Friendship

A Non-Denominational Initiative

Recently a team of volunteers have embarked on a venture to help the lonely, the isolated or those who just want a visit during the week. All the volunteers are Garda vetted just to keep everything above board.

The volunteers will call once a week or when required. For those living alone or the house-bound this service could be of enormous value. Extending the hand of friendship is our motto and confidentiality is of paramount importance. The most precious gift we bring is time.

If you are interested in a visit please contact **Ann on 086 0859725** or **Bridget on 087 1239166** or the **Parish Office 01 4994203**.

Methodist Church Services

Sunday 13th December:

Candlelight Carol Service at 7.00pm.

Sunday 20th December:

10.00am - Family Worship

11.30am - Contemporary Worship

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve):

9.00pm - Reflection & Carol Service

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day):

10.00am - Family Celebration

Taney (C of I.) Parish Christmas Services

Christ Church:

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve):

11.30pm - Midnight Holy Communion

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day):

10.30am - Family Service

11.00am - Holy Communion

St. Nahi's on Christmas Day

9.00am - Holy Communion